News Release

REDWOODS NOT CONFIRMED AS SUDDEN OAK DEATH HOST

Date: January 29, 2002

Contact: Katie Facino
Information Officer
(916) 653-5123

Mark Stanley
Assistant Deputy Director, CDF
(530) 409-0686

SACRAMENTO—California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Director Andrea Tuttle today clarified the status of ongoing research on coast redwoods designed to determine if redwood is a host plant for Sudden Oak Death (SOD). "I caution anyone from relying on incomplete research to make conclusive statements. We want to take strong actions to control this aggressive pest, but we need sound science to prove or disprove a susceptible host and an infested area," said Tuttle.

UC researchers have not completed the necessary tests to determine whether or not coast redwoods are a host of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen known to cause SOD. "We are still in the early stages of studying redwood," said Dave Rizzo, associate professor and leading researcher at UC Davis. Evidence from studies needs to be gathered before conclusions can be made.

"Only after completing the necessary lab work and expanding field observations will we be able to produce a definitive, scientifically sound conclusion," said Matteo Garbelotto, an extension forest pathology specialist and adjunct professor of plant pathology at UC Berkeley. The UC scientists are still trying to determine whether redwoods are a true host of the spores, and if so, the degree to which redwoods are affected.

-More-

Currently 10 coastal California counties* are infested with SOD and fall under California Department of Food and Agriculture regulations that prohibit the movement of any of the plants** affected by this disease without a permit unless the wood has been debarked. These counties became regulated when sites were scientifically confirmed by CDFA to have *Phytophthora ramourum*.

---

*Alameda, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma

**California black oak, coast live oak, Shreve oak, tanoak, rhododendron, California bay laurel, big leaf maple, madrone, manzanita, huckleberry, California honeysuckle, toyon, California buckeye, and California coffeeberry. The pathogen has also been recovered from Arrow wood in Germany and the Netherlands.

For more information on Sudden Oak Death, visit the California Oak Mortality Task Force web site at http://www.suddenoakdeath.org.

# # #